

**New Patent Claims**

- Sub 01*
1. Signalling means for processing signalling messages, comprising
- links via which the signalling means is connected to other signalling means,
  - 5 -- at least one signalling system that sends signalling messages to other signal means or, respectively, receives signalling messages from these via said links,
- characterized by
- 10 -- a signalling system that respectively allocates a signalling network identity to a link;
  - at least one link that is returned in a loop from the signalling point to the same signalling point, what is referred to as a loop link, whereby different signalling network identities are allocated to the loop link at the output and input side by the signalling system.
- 15 2. Signalling means according to claim 1, characterized in that said signalling system, with the assistance of a said loop link, communicates signalling messages between two other signalling systems contained in the signalling means to which is respectively comprises an interface.
- 20 3. Signalling means according to claim 1, characterized in that said signalling system generates internal load for test purposes with the assistance of at least one said loop link.
4. Signalling means according to claim 1, characterized in that said signalling system realizes an Internetworking [sic] with other networks with the assistance of a said loop link.
- 25 5. Signalling means according to one of the claims 1 through 4, characterized in that said signalling system is a signalling system according to No. 7 and allocates the same network identifier (NI) to said loop link at the output and input side.

6. Method for signalling in a signalling means, in accord wherewith

- a signalling system of the signalling means allocates signalling network identities to the links of the signalling means;
- the signalling system allocates different signalling network identities at the output and input side to a link, what is referred to as the loop link, that is returned from the signalling means to the same signalling means in a loop.

7. Method according to claim 6, characterized in that a said loop link is employed by said signalling system in order to communicate signalling messages between two further signalling systems of the signalling means to which it comprises a respective interface.

8. Method according to claim 6, characterized in that a said loop link is employed by said signalling system to generate load for test purposes.

9. Method according to claim 6, characterized in that a said loop link is employed by said signalling in order to enable a desired Internetworking [sic] with other networks for a network.

10. Method according to one of the claims 6 through 9, characterized in that a common NI is allocated to a said loop link at the output and input side by said signalling system.